

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 478

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TAGS: PFOR,LI, ZA

SUBJECT: STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA TO LIBERIA,

JANUARY 18-20

REF: (A) MONROVIA 0507, (B) MONROVIA 0444

1. DR. KENNETH KAUNDA, PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA, MADE A THREE-DAY STATE VISIT TO LIBERIA JANUARY 18-20, THE HIGH POINT OF WHICH WAS HIS ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE LIBERIAN LEGISLATURE (REF A) JANUARY 20. THIS WAS KAUNDA'S FIRST VISIT TO LIBERIA. PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT MADE A STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA IN JUNE 1974.

2. THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND MUTUAL PRAISE WHICH PERVADED THE KAUNDA VISIT REFLECTED THE SINCERE ADMIRATION WHICH LIBERIANS HAVE FOR KAUNDA AND THE SIMILARITY OF APPROACH WHICH BOTH NATIONS HAVE TOWARD CURRENT AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THE EVENING BEFORE THE
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VISIT, LIBERIAN TELEVISION BROADCAST AN HOUR-LONG SPECIAL (OF ZAMBIAN ORIGIN) ON THE LIFE AND CAREER OF DR. KAUNDA. DURING THE VISIT, A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE GOL NEWS BULLETIN WAS DEVOTED TO KAUNDA, WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS "AN AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTER." PRESS AND RADIO GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, INCLUDING A LIVE BROADCAST OF THE KAUNDA ADDRESS BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

3. KAUNDA'S 33-MAN PARTY INCLUDED FOREIGN MINISTER DR. SITEKE MWALE AND TEN JOURNALISTS. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED, ON JANUARY 18, THE LAYING OF A WREATH BY KAUNDA ON THE PIONEER MONUMENT ; PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS; AND A CIVIC RECEPTION TENDERED BY MAYOR EDWARD DAVID OF MONROVIA; ON JANUARY 19, OFFICIAL TALKS BETWEEN KAUNDA AND TOLBERT; A TOUR OF THE STEPHEN A. TOLBERT MEMORIAL HOUSING ESTATE AND THE OAU CONFERENCE HALL CONSTRUCTION SITE; THE GOWNING OF BOTH KAUNDA AND TOLBERT AS HONORARY PARAMOUNT CHIEFS; A VISIT TO THE BONG IRON MINE; AND A RECEPTION AND EVENING SOIREE AT BENTOL CITY AT THE TOLBERT RESIDENCE; ON JANUARY 20, THE KAUNDA ADDRESS BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE AND SIGNATURE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

4. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (FULL TEXT POUCHED SEPARATELY) DECLARED THAT:

(A) BOTH PRESIDENTS HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACISM. APARTHEID, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM FROM THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERY AFRICAN;

(B) PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD BRIEFED PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE FRONT LINE STATES AT THE RECENT SUMMIT MEETING IN LUSAKA IN WHICH THE FRONT LINE STATES PLEDGED THEIR DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AND THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS HAD RE-AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE;
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(C) THE TWO PRESIDENTS REASSERTED THEIR "UNFLINCHING" SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE WAGED BY THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO...FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA AS A UNITARY STATE;

(D) THE UN SHOULD TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE CONVENING IN GENEVA OF A CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA TO INCLUDE BOTH SWAPO, THE "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE", AND SOUTH AFRICA, THE ILLEGAL OCCUPYING POWER;

(E) BOTH PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT THE "ACTS OF AGGRESSION PERPETRATED AGAINST THE FRONT LINE STATES BY SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA" CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND URGED THE UN TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR CESSATION;

(F) THE TWO PRESIDENTS RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND LIBERIA "PARTICULARLY AT THE CIVIC AND PARTY LEVELS"; AND THAT

(G) KAUNDA COMMENDED TOLBERT FOR THE "PROGRESSIVE OUTWARD LOOKING FOREIGN POLICY" OF THE GOL.

5. AN ARTICLE IN THE FOL INFORMATION BULLETIN JANUARY 18 STATED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES STRESS "ECONOMIC SELF-HELP FOR SELF-RELIANCE" ("LIBERIANIZATION AND ZAMBIANIZATION"); HAVE LAUNCHED ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGNING; AND STRIVE TO CREATE SOCIETIES BASED ON "AFRICANISM, WHICH DEPICTS A HUMANISTIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM." THE ARTICLE REFERRED ALSO TO THE FACT THAT IN THE 1973 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, SIERRA LEONE "ENTRENCHED ONE PARTY PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY UNDER THE PHILOSOPHY OF "JUMANISM" AND HAS NOW "PLACED HERSELF WITHIN THE RANK AND FILE OF ONE PARTY STATES IN AFRICA."

6. COMMENT: THE GOL HAS SHOWN A GREATER THOROUGHNESS IN PREPARATION FOR THE VISITS OF BOTH KAUNDA AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE (REF B) THAN IN PREVIOUS VISITS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES. THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS MORE ACTIVE THAN HERETOFORE IN ENCOURAGING POPULAR PARTICIPATION ON WEL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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